

Final Word on the Stem Pessary for Amenorrhœa, Dysmenorrhœa, Sterility, Etc.—J. H. CARSTENS (*Jour. Amer. Med. Assoc.*, 1909, liii, 1730) has written a fourth paper on the subject of the use of the stem pessary for various uterine functional abnormalities. For amenorrhœa, premature atrophy, dysmenorrhœa, displacements of the uterus, and sterility He strongly recommends the application of the stem pessary. In some instances its retention for one to two years is advised. He regards pelvic inflammations as contra-indicating the use of the stem pessary.

DERMATOLOGY.

UNDER THE CHARGE OF

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Lupus or Tertiary Syphilis? Sarcoma or Primary Syphilis?—Under this heading A. NEISSER (*Berl. klin. Woch.*, August 16, 1909) discusses the differential diagnosis, giving the notes of a case of supposed lupus in which existing syphilis was not diagnosed for two years. When there exists a suspicion of syphilis, he advises energetic mercurial and iodide treatment. Nasal disease first manifesting itself in a woman as late as the age of forty-one is more likely to be syphilis than lupus. A negative history, especially in women, does not exclude syphilis. The author advises the employment of the subcutaneous tuberculin test in all instances of a superficial disease suspected of being tuberculosis. A case is cited in which a large red warty patch had been observed for two years on a young man and the diagnosis of tuberculosis verrucosa made, but no reaction followed tuberculin up to 5 mg., but the Wasserman test proved that syphilis existed, and recovery followed the usual internal remedies. A case is referred to in which a woman was believed to have a sarcoma of the uterus, the microscopic examination pointing to that disease, and hysterectomy was performed. Later, a papular syphiloderm appeared. The Wassermann test before the operation would have indicated the necessity for an antisyphilitic treatment.

Experimental Studies Concerning Tuberculosis of the Skin.—LEWANDOWSKY (*Archiv f. Dermat. und Syph.*, 1909, xcvi, Heft 2 and 3), who has made a somewhat extensive study of the results following the inoculation of human and bovine tubercle bacilli into the skin of rabbits and guinea-pigs, has found that such inoculation when properly performed always leads to a local tuberculosis of the skin. The result of the inoculation is dependent upon the varying virulence of the strain of the bacilli employed and upon racial and individual differences of the

animals inoculated. The typical inoculation ulcer appears in guinea-pigs only in the second week, and may last until the death of the animal or it may heal over. In the latter event the small red-brown discolored spot remaining still contains tuberculous tissue and is inoculable. Tuberculosis of the lymph cords only appears after the lymph-glands in the neighborhood are affected, and this may lead to the formation of nodules with crateriform ulcers which only heal in the last days of the animal's life. In rabbits, in addition to ulcers, inoculation produces foci similar to lupus or, according to location, tuberculosis verrucosa. Intravenous injections into the engorged ear of the rabbit may produce a papular eruption on the skin of the ear, which undergoes spontaneous involution and contains bacilli only in the beginning (tuberculide-like lesions). After similar injections with bovine bacilli a true tuberculosis occurs. Infection of the skin with bovine bacilli leads in rabbits always to general tuberculosis, but infection with human bacilli pursues a different course; even intravenous injection is not always followed by general tuberculosis. Of internal organs, the lungs are almost always affected in rabbits after cutaneous infection. Histologically caseation is almost always wanting in the skin. In animals which have undergone a cutaneous inoculation, subsequent inoculations, if they are made some time after the first one, take effect less vigorously than the first, unless the later ones are made with bovine bacilli. This relative immunity of the skin also appears after intraperitoneal inoculation.

Dermatitis Herpetiformis.—BOGROW (*Archiv f. Dermat. und Syph.*, 1909, xcviii, Heft 2 and 3) reports a case of dermatitis herpetiformis with extensive eruption which, beginning acutely in a woman with carcinoma uteri, began to undergo regression coincidently with the employment of disinfecting vaginal douches, the internal administration of calcium chloride, and the local use of astringent salves and compresses. An abrupt ending of the cutaneous affection and fall in the elevated temperature followed immediately upon an operation in which the entire visible, partly necrotic mass of the tumor was removed. Recurrence of the growth, which caused the death of the patient, was not followed by a return of the eruption. The author regards the case as a toxidermia proceeding from the necrotic tumor of the uterus, from which bacterial products reached the circulation, a view which the results of treatment support. Should future observations of a similar nature be made, the author believes they would furnish ground for more closely associating dermatitis herpetiformis and impetigo herpetiformis.

The Treatment of Itching Dermatoses, Especially Trade Eczema, with Undiluted Coal Tar.—CHAJES (*Dermat. Ztschr.*, 1909, xvi, Heft 9), who has employed coal tar in the treatment of 64 cases of various diseases of the skin, such as eczema, lichen planus, prurigo, and pruritus hiemalis, finds that it is an excellent and quickly acting remedy in many acute and chronic itching affections, being especially valuable in the treatment of those eczemas occurring in workers in various trades. It lessens itching, diminishes redness and swelling, and dries up and heals oozing eczemas. It is contra-indicated in infection of the skin, since suppuration can take place and spread under the coal tar. The method of application is quite

simple, consisting in applying a moderately thick layer of the tar to the affected area with a not too stiff brush, previous cleaning being necessary only in those cases attended by abundant exudation and the consequent formation of thick crusts.

PATHOLOGY AND BACTERIOLOGY.

UNDER THE CHARGE OF

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The Action of Leukocytic Extracts on the Course of Pneumonia.—The idea that leukocytes contain substances which, when present in a free state, might have a beneficial effect upon infectious processes originated with Hiss. His hypothesis was that the phagocytic cells contain an anti-endotoxin which protected the cells against the endotoxins of the bacteria which had been ingested. If this anti-endotoxin was liberated in a free state it would have a beneficial effect in the animal suffering from an infective process. This hypothesis was put to extensive experimental investigation by Hiss and ZINSSER (*Jour. Med. Research*, 1908, xix, 323) by injections of leukocytic extracts into animals after they had been inoculated with various pathogenic bacteria. This procedure gave such good results in effecting favorably the course of the infections in animals that it seemed justified to use the method as a means of treatment in human infectious processes. This method has been used in man by Hiss and Zinsser, who have made, besides their original report, a second one on the treatment of staphylococcus infections with leukocytic extract (*Jour. Med. Research*, 1909, xx, 506). It has also been employed by LAMBERT (*AMER. JOUR. MED. SCI.*, 1909, cxxxvi, 506) in a variety of infectious processes in man. But the most extensive employment of this method of treatment in any one disease is that reported by FLOYD and LUCAS (*Jour. Med. Research*, 1909, xxi, 223), who used leukocytic extract as a method of treatment in 41 cases of pneumonia. Leukocytes were obtained from young rabbits after injections into the pleural and abdominal cavities of 10 c.c. of a 5 per cent. aleuronat solution. The exudate thus obtained was washed and centrifuged, the leukocytes were broken up by beating with a platinum loop, and extracted with distilled water. Ten c.c. subcutaneously injected twice a day was the standard dose. As much as 20 c.c. three or four times a day was given without any harmful effects. There were five deaths in these cases, giving a mortality of 12.5 per cent., which is to be contrasted with a mortality of 21 per cent. occurring in cases of pneumonia treated by other methods under the same general conditions. All of the cases treated were lobar in type except three, which were cases of bronchopneumonia. Of the 5 cases that died, 2 were